

## TREACHERY DECEIT BY MRS. TERRELL

Statement Defending Course  
of Assistant Superintendent  
Montgomery.

### APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS

Says Mistakes, if There Were Any,  
Are Magnified by  
Malice.

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, of the Board of Education, denies absolutely that there was any "malice or treachery" in the incident which resulted in the superintendent of schools appointing to teacherships three persons whom she did not intend to appoint.

Mrs. Terrell enters a special defense for the colored assistant superintendent of schools. She declares, in a statement to The Times of the case, that she thinks such a statement called for in the interest of the assistant superintendent and the colored members of the Board of Education.

### Statement of Mrs. Terrell.

Mrs. Terrell's statement follows: "During the last few days so much has been said with reference to the treachery and duplicity of the colored assistant superintendent who has been unjustly accused of trying to smuggle names of teachers to the board contrary to the express wish of the superintendent that I feel somebody acquainted with the facts in the case should reply. Not only has the colored assistant superintendent been grossly misrepresented, but the colored members of the board have come in for their share of attention also. It is openly asserted that several colored members of the board entered into the conspiracy with the colored assistant superintendent, if they did not actually hatch the plot themselves. If this were the first time the press of the city had come out in glaring headlines announcing the dishonest and unscrupulous methods by which the assistant superintendent, and now the colored members of the board, have resorted to I could keep silent under the attack, but as one of the colored members of the board I feel it is my bounden duty to do everything in my power to relieve the colored schools of the odium attaching to them because of these false reports.

### Newspaper Report Criticized.

"In giving an account of the colored assistant superintendent's duplicity one paper declared: 'He was directly charged by a member of the board that the matter was sifted to the bottom.' It would develop that Dr. Montgomery had acted in accordance with the expressed wishes of certain members of the board, when he recommended C. K. Wormley, A. U. Craig, and Miss Russell for appointment as night school teachers, instead of Bruce Evans, C. H. Madella, and Miss N. T. Jackson, as instructed by Superintendent Chancellor."

"In the first place I cannot believe that any member of the Board of Education would prefer a charge against another, unless he were absolutely certain that the facts in the case warranted him in taking such a step. And even if one member of the board were sure that another had erred in judgment, I cannot believe he would rush to the press to expose and accuse him. But it is unnecessary to sift the matter at all to discover that I for one did not discuss the matter of appointing night school teachers with the superintendent, before they were handed to the superintendent, just as the meeting was called to order last Tuesday afternoon. It was my privilege as a member of the Board of Education to discuss the matter with Dr. Montgomery, and my duty to express an opinion on the subjects he presented.

### Approved Assistant's Course.

"Not only did I express an opinion on the subject, but after listening to the reasons for making some of the changes suggested I took the assistant superintendent that I heartily approved of his course. So long as I remain on the Board of Education I shall not hesitate to concern myself deeply about every phase of our school life, nor shall I refrain for any reason whatsoever to express my views. I am personally acquainted with at least two-thirds of our teachers in the colored schools and a goodly number in the white.

"Having been one of the first two women appointed to serve on the Board of Education in this city, I acted in that capacity for five years and then resigned, so that I can at least claim a bit of knowledge and a modicum of experience to guide me in discharging my duties today.

"In commenting upon the assistant superintendent's decision to recommend Mr. Wormley for the assistant directorship of night schools, one paper declares that he acted according to suggestions from colored members of the board, 'who were opposed to Dr. Evans.' Concerning this alleged opposition to Dr. Evans, I can only speak for myself. When Dr. Montgomery discussed the night school appointments with me, nothing was said by either one of us about Dr. Evans' lack of qualifications to fill that position creditably. Dr. Montgomery did call my attention to the fact that Dr. Evans receives \$2,000 a year as principal of the Armstrong Manual Training School, while Mr. Wormley, who is competent to fill that position and is a young man of fine character, receives but a small salary and has a family to support.

### Favorable to Dr. Evans.

"Nothing will define my attitude to Dr. Evans more clearly than the stand I took concerning him, when the principalship of the Armstrong Manual Training School was to be settled. When Dr. Chancellor announced that nobody had qualified after the examination of candidates who wished to secure that position had been held, I was the first to request Dr. Chancellor to reappoint Dr. Evans principal of the Armstrong Manual Training School. If I had refused to consider him for the assistant directorship of night schools, I should certainly have not supported him for the principalship of the Armstrong Manual Training School, even though nobody else had qualified.

"It is clear, therefore, that there is not this bitter opposition toward Dr.

## Threat to Sue District For False Imprisonment

St. Louis Man Claims He Was Mistreated by  
the Washington Police and Demands  
Heavy Damages.

Growing out of what he alleges was false imprisonment and rough treatment at the hands of the Washington police, Charles H. Bell, a St. Louis business man, has announced his intention of suing the District for heavy damages. This information came to the notice of the District Commissioners yesterday through a letter from Messrs. Bishop and Cobb, of St. Louis, who have been retained by Bell to begin the action. After a brief investigation, the Commissioners referred the matter to Corporation Counsel Thomas for advice.

According to the attorneys, their client, while in Washington, asked assistance at the Police Headquarters in locating persons whom he declared had annoyed him in various unpleasant ways. They state further that after Mr. Bell told his story to the policeman assigned to investigate the charges, he was accused of suffering from hallucinations

and put under arrest. Without an examination, the attorneys state, their client was sent to a police station and several hours later taken to the Government Hospital for the Insane, where he was detained for a week in spite of his protest before he was finally released.

Major Richard Sylvester's report on the case, which he submitted to the Commissioners, differs somewhat from the attorneys' allegations. He states that Bell went to the Police Headquarters and complained that some unknown persons were harassing and molesting him by poisoning his food. The man's actions, Major Sylvester says, convinced him that he was demented. He advised that he be examined by two police surgeons, who decided he was a fit subject for hospital treatment. A certificate to that effect was issued by Major Sylvester in his report on the case.

Evans on the part of all the colored members of the board, which those who wish to stir up strife among school officials are trying to make the public believe.

### The Charges of Treachery.

"Dr. Montgomery has been severely criticized and accused of treachery to the superintendent, because he failed to notify him of the recommendations which he intended to make with reference to the position of assistant director of night schools. Not only Dr. Montgomery but Assistant Superintendent Hughes and ex-Superintendent Stuart told me that they were under the impression that the colored night schools had been placed in charge of the colored assistant superintendent. I did not know the board was to meet Tuesday afternoon until I received a notice Tuesday morning.

"Being interested in several matters of importance to which I wished to call the superintendent's attention, before the meeting was held, I went to the Franklin School about 10 o'clock to confer with him. I had spent a goodly portion of the previous day, Monday, at the Franklin School, looking over the work of the board, and had failed, because the superintendent did not come to the building. He was visiting schools, I was informed. From 10 o'clock Tuesday morning till nearly 11 I waited at the Franklin School hoping to see Dr. Chancellor, but failed again, because he did not come to the office. None of the superintendent seemed to know what time the superintendent would reach his office, and somebody expressed a doubt about his attending the board meeting that afternoon.

"Knowing that all appointments of teachers must be made by the superintendent, I was perplexed, because I knew there was immediate need of an extra teacher in one of our high schools, and I was eager to present the claims of a young woman, whom I knew would fill the position with credit.

### Met Superintendent by Chance.

"By the merest chance I met a member of the superintendent's family in the office and requested her to deliver the message to the superintendent, which she kindly consented to do. It was interesting to the public to know that Dr. Chancellor informed the Board of Education that he would not have been present at all Tuesday afternoon if he had not received my note at 3:15. I have dwelt at some length upon this phase of the matter to show that it was impossible for either Dr. Montgomery or myself to consult the superintendent about the night schools or anything else Monday or Tuesday.

"I wish also to emphasize the fact that Dr. Chancellor did not reach the Franklin School until after the meeting. The Board of Education was ready to call the meeting to order, so that conference with him then was impossible. Dr. Montgomery did not know Dr. Chancellor had arrived till he was summoned before the board to answer the charge of appointing teachers in violation of the superintendent's orders. It may be asked why Dr. Montgomery did not wait till he could consult the superintendent before handing in the list of night school teachers to the board. I myself inquired of Assistant Superintendent Hughes if he were necessary to present the list of night school teachers to the board Tuesday afternoon and was informed by him that it was. When I inquired who had delegated that power to him, he replied that Dr. Chancellor had authorized him to make out the list of teachers to present to the superintendent. He expressed Dr. Montgomery had the same duty for the colored night schools. Dr. Montgomery also informed me that he had been authorized to make out the list of colored night school teachers, and he simply obeyed orders when he did so.

### The Recommendation of Wormley.

"Again, Dr. Montgomery is blamed for recommending Clarence Wormley for the assistant directorship of night school instead of Dr. Evans. I hold that if Dr. Montgomery, for any reason whatsoever, thought it was better to name one man for any position than another, it was not only his right—the right which Congress undoubtedly has given him—but it was his duty to do so. There is no doubt that Dr. Chancellor has the power to refuse to appoint Dr. Montgomery's recommendation, since the superintendent and he alone has the power to appoint, promote, or transfer teachers in our public schools.

"After Dr. Chancellor had glanced over the list of night school teachers handed in by Dr. Montgomery and approved by Assistant Superintendent Hughes, he called the meeting, if he had requested Dr. Montgomery to appoint Dr. Evans assistant director of night schools the colored assistant superintendent would undoubtedly have cheerfully complied.

"It is also claimed that Dr. Chancellor had given Dr. Montgomery special instructions to appoint Dr. Evans. Both Dr. Chancellor and Dr. Evans have insisted upon this point and I have no doubt that both gentlemen have stated what they honestly believe to be the truth. I have the highest regard for Dr. Chancellor and yield to no one in admiration of the sterling

### Dr. Montgomery's Long Service.

"But Dr. Montgomery is just as certain and states just as positively that he did not understand that he had been instructed by the superintendent to appoint Dr. Evans assistant director of night schools. For twenty-five years Dr. Montgomery has been connected with our public schools, as a teacher, as supervising principal, as principal of the M Street High School, and finally as assistant superintendent. During all those years of service, if he has ever been accused of dishonesty, obstinacy, or insubordination, I have never heard of it. It is strange that these qualities latent for so many years, are just becoming dynamic now.

"When one thinks what insubordination to his superior officer would cost Dr. Montgomery, it is difficult to believe that he would willingly, wilfully transgress to that extent. If it had been possible for Dr. Montgomery to smuggle names and keep the superintendent in ignorance of this deception for any considerable time, there might be some reason for supposing that he had attempted to play such a trick. But it is difficult to believe that a man clothed in his right mind would be stupid enough to think that he could carry his point in defiance of his superior's orders, simply because he was able to hoodwink him for an hour or so on a certain afternoon.

### Order Was Misunderstood.

"If Dr. Montgomery, knowing, as he certainly does, how much power the superintendent possesses, believed he could defeat Dr. Chancellor's wishes by those with which he has been charged by some, he should have been immediately on the ground of insanity, rather than insubordination. The worst that can be said with reference to Dr. Montgomery's failure to appoint Dr. Evans is that he misunderstood the superintendent's orders.

"In these strenuous times, when everything is in a state of commotion and uncertainty in our public schools owing to the recent reorganization, mistakes are likely to occur among the wisest and best regulated teachers in the District. It is difficult for the assistant superintendents to know just what are the duties and rights of the superintendent, and certainly they should not be misjudged and misrepresented to the public every time they make a mistake. It would be easy for me to cite several concrete instances which prove conclusively that not only Dr. Montgomery but several others holding important positions in our schools have erred concerning their rights and duties along various lines.

"If I had not written to Dr. Chancellor requesting him to attend this board meeting and appoint a teacher in our M Street High School and he had not been present last Tuesday when Dr. Montgomery handed in her name, both the assistant superintendent and myself would probably have been accused of trying to smuggle names to the board so as to outwit the superintendent.

"There is just as much reason for believing that was sufficient evidence to convict us of treachery to the superintendent as there is for claiming that the recommendation of Mr. Wormley for the assistant directorship of night schools proves that Dr. Montgomery was trying to dupe the superintendent. If we believe the colored assistant superintendent's statement that he did not know Dr. Chancellor had given specific orders about that position.

### Appointment of 1905 Graduates.

"Again, in certain quarters Dr. Montgomery is being criticized, because in appointing graduates of the class of 1905, he has taken some whose rating in the normal school was lower than that of others who have not yet been given teacherships. And yet the school board voted unanimously to give the superintendent sole power in these appointments, with the distinct understanding that if a graduate stood near the foot of the class of 1905 in the normal school, but had had a year's experience in teaching, the enterprise she had shown in securing a position out of the city and the experience as a teacher would count greatly in her favor, as compared with a graduate who had no such experience but ad had no experience as a teacher.

"In discussing this matter in the board I called attention to the fact that only those normal school graduates of the class of 1905 whose rating was low had tried to secure teacherships out of the city, because they had the slightest chance of receiving appointments there. When I asked the superintendent how much a year's experience would count in the favor of a graduate who stood

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Lincoln Institute, which is to Georgetown in a large measure what Girard College is to Philadelphia, will open for the thirty-second year on Monday evening, October 1, at 7:30 o'clock. The school has a large building devoted to its use at 228 O street, which besides a large hall and abundance of basement room, has accommodations for over 200 students.

The school is a free institution, open to all white men and boys, especially to those who have to work during the day, and is maintained by a private endowment. It has for years taken the place of a free public night school for Georgetown, teaching nothing but practical business subjects and fitting its students with a good education for their own advancement in the world.

The curriculum includes penmanship, bookkeeping, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, commercial law, mechanical and architectural drawing, freehand drawing, spelling, English, and shorthand. The prospective student can select such studies as desired, it not being obligatory to take up every study. Each night a different class meets, the school being open every night of the week except Saturday, from 7 to 9 o'clock.

As a further inducement to regular attendance and progress in studies at the close of the year special prizes in gold are given. Three cash prizes are awarded, one of \$25, a second of \$15, and a third of \$10. In addition a special prize is given in the department of mechanical and architectural drawing, consisting of a complete set of drawing instruments, to the student making the most satisfactory showing in that department.

Twenty-four, but who had had a year's experience, as compared with one who stood number fourteen, but who had not taught, he replied he could not answer my question exactly, but that the year's experience as a teacher should count for a great deal.

"It is difficult to see, therefore, on what ground criticism is hurled at Dr. Montgomery, since in making the recent appointments, which includes graduates of the normal school whose marks were comparatively poor, but who had had some experience as teachers, he was simply carrying out instructions given him by the superintendent and approved by the board.

### Mistakes Magnified by Malice.

"If people wish to find duplicity and treachery among the colored school officials, they will probably have little difficulty in discovering something on which to base their suspicions and accusations. It is very easy to magnify a mistake into malice, if one allows himself to fall into that state of mind. Until school affairs assume their normal proportions and all who are connected with the schools understand the new laws and conditions more thoroughly than we do, both the school officials themselves and the general public should refrain from fault finding and wholesale denunciation of anybody.

"For Dr. Chancellor himself, as I have already said, I have the highest admiration. The school board might have searched diligently and long before finding his equal. He is courageous, sympathetic, and absolutely just. He has come into our schools under the most trying circumstances imaginable. From the day he set foot on this soil until this morning he has been harassed, importuned, and bombarded with petitions enough to set the average man crazy, and yet he has pursued the even tenor of his way, trying his level best to comply with reasonable requests, whenever possible, and deal justly with all. So long as I remain on the school board I intend to give him my loyal support. At the same time I know it is possible for the wisest to make mistakes, particularly in a time of stress and storm.

"MARY CHURCH TERRELL,  
"25 T Street Northwest."

### FELL FROM WAGON.

Falling from the seat of a wagon in Twining City, John H. Soper, thirty-five years old, of Centerville, Md., received an ugly gash on his head last night. He was carried to the Washington Asylum Hospital. After several stitches had been taken by surgeons he again climbed to the seat and drove away.

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